Tom Chittum
23 Alabama Ave.
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(201) 663 4334 June 24, 1994

Dear Dr. Wecht:

I've not yet finished reading the segment of your book - CAUSE OF DEATH - which covers the death of President John F. Kennedy, but I had to write this letter to inquire about something that's been bothering me.

Secret Service agent Kellerman said President Kennedy spoke after he was hit. According to Kellerman, President Kennedy exclaimed, "My God, I am hit!" I thought it odd that someone who had a bullet pass through or near his windpipe could say anything.

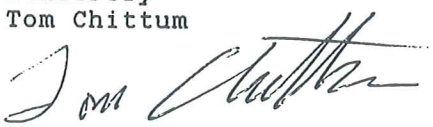
I wrote the enclosed letter to Gerald Posner asking him what he thought about my observation, and Mr. Posner courteously replied. Since the letters contains nothing personal, I've enclosed them. Mr. Posner thinks Kennedy's wound would have prevented him from speaking, and therefore agent Kellerman (who is now dead) was mistaken is saying that Kennedy spoke after he was shot. I think that's an odd way of looking at things. Frankly, I think Mr. Posner may be discarding sworn evidence by a reliable witness because it doesn't fit his view of what happened.

I've no compelling reason to doubt what Kellerman said under oath. I doubt that agent Kellerman was lying or reporting hallucinations. I think he heard Kennedy say those words.

I'd like your learned medical opinion: Was it possible for Kennedy to speak after receiving the throat wound?

If it was possible, then there is no need for further consideration of this matter. However, if It was not possible for Kennedy to speak after receiving the throat wound then ... THE SEQUENCE ABSOLUTELY MUST BE:

(A) Kennedy was struck in the back by a shot fired from behind. The round didn't exit.
(B) Kennedy exclaimed, "My God, I am hit!"
(C) Kennedy was struck in the throat by a shot fired from the front; the round didn't exit; Kennedy was struck in the head by one or more rounds fired from undetermined direction(s). (The throat wound almost certainly came before the head wound(s), but not necessarily.)

Please let me know if it was possible, in your medical opinion, for President Kennedy to speak, as agent Kellerman testified he did, after receiving the throat wound. I've enclosed a self-addressed envelope for your reply. Also, could you please describe the exact nature of the throat wound in layman's terms? Was the windpipe penetrated?

Sincerely
Tom Chittum